

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 17 as follows.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for restoring a subscriber context in a network element of a mobile communication network which comprises at least a first and a second network element, the second network element storing a plurality of subscriber contexts related to the first network element, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a restart information from the first to the second network element, the restart information indicating whether the first network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the first network element after the latest restart;

b) continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart;
and

c) inactivating the plurality of a subscriber context contexts which are related to the first network element and have been updated before the latest restart of the first network element.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is a restart counter value and is transmitted together with a context signaling message.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein said restart

counter value is compared with a stored restart counter value so as to determine said subscriber context updated before the latest restart.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said stored restart counter value is updated on the basis of said transmitted restart counter value.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is transmitted only one time after said latest restart.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein at least one of said network elements is a GPRS support node, and wherein said restart information is transmitted together with a tunnel management signaling message.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said restart information is transmitted separately or in a separate message.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein said

restart information is a restart counter value.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for restoring a subscriber context in a network element (20) of a mobile communication network which comprises at least a first and a second network element, the second network element storing a plurality of subscriber contexts related to the first element, comprising:

a) transmitting means (10) for transmitting ~~to said network element (20)~~ a restart information from the first to the second network element, the restart information indicating whether the first network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the first network element after the latest restart;

b) wherein said second network element (20) comprises receiving means (21) for receiving said restart information, and control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivation of the plurality of a subscriber context contexts which are stored in the second network element related to the first network element and have been updated before said latest restart, in response to said restart information.

27. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said transmitting means (10) comprises a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and an adding means (14) for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message, and wherein said second network element (20) comprises a comparing means (23) for

comparing said restart number with a restart number stored in a storing means ~~(22)~~ and for supplying the comparing result to said control means ~~(24)~~.

28. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said control means ~~(24)~~ performs control so as to store a new subscriber context included in said subscriber context message and to delete an old subscriber context stored in said second network element ~~(20)~~.

29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said transmitting means ~~(10)~~ comprises a restart counter ~~(13)~~ for counting a restart number, and switching means for switching said restart number to said transmitting means ~~(10)~~ so as to be transmitted separately or in a separate message to said second network element ~~(20)~~, and wherein said control means ~~(24)~~ is arranged to delete or inactivate corresponding subscriber contexts received before the latest restart.

30. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein at least one of said network elements is a GPRS support node ~~(4,5)~~ and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

31. (Currently Amended) A network element ~~(10)~~ for a mobile communication network, comprising:

transmitting means ~~(15)~~ for transmitting a restart information from the network element, the restart information indicating whether the network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the network element after the latest restart ~~and~~.

32. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 31, further comprising a restart counter ~~(13)~~ for counting a restart number, and adding means ~~(14)~~ for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message.

33. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 31, further comprising a restart counter ~~(13)~~ for counting a restart number, and switching means for switching said restart number to said transmitting means ~~(10)~~ so as to be transmitted separately or in a separate message.

34. (Currently Amended) A network element ~~(20)~~ ~~for a mobile communication network~~ according to claim 31, comprising:

a) receiving means ~~(21)~~ for receiving a restart information from another network element, the restart information indicating whether the another network element has been restarted and whether a subscriber context has been updated in the another network

element after the latest restart, and

b) control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivating a plurality of subscriber ~~context~~ contexts related to another network element and having been updated before said latest restart in response to said restart information.

35. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 34, wherein said restart information is a restart number and wherein said network element (20) comprises comparing means (23) for comparing said restart number with a restart number stored in a storing means (22) and for supplying the comparing result to said control means (24).

36. (Currently Amended) A network element according to claim 31, wherein said network element is a GPRS support node (4,5) and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.